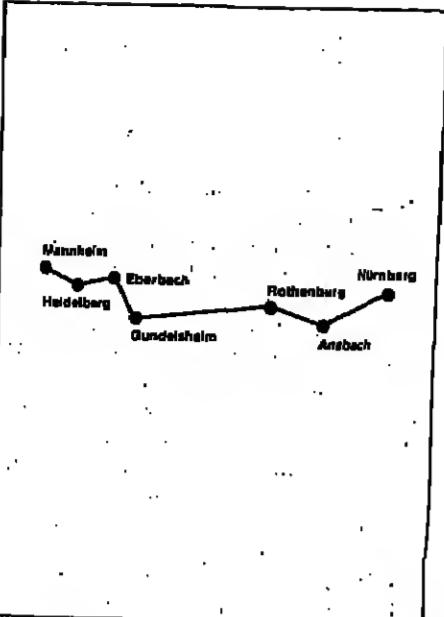
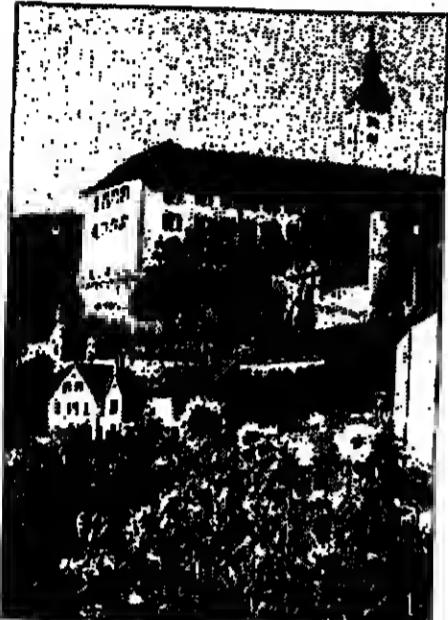


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Europe still lacks a role in the Mediterranean

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The United States bombed Libya against the express advice of its European allies. Despite prior warnings America's determination in the final analysis took them by surprise.

The US move raises many questions, such as how long an alliance will last when one member is expected to commit its troops to the defence of Berlin, Hamburg, Copenhagen or Rome while others refuse their protecting power permission to overfly their territory.

It also casts a bright and glinting light on the reduced role Europe now plays in the Mediterranean, a region it regards as the cradle of its civilisation.

In recent years the Europeans have not succeeded in exerting influence in the region even when their vital interests

IN THIS ISSUE

AGRICULTURE

Farm policy is criticised but nothing gets done

Page 8

RESEARCH

Max Planck scientists probe macromolecules in Mainz

Page 9

CINEMA

Rasa Luxemburg, life and death of a revolutionary

Page 18

EDUCATION

Dagreia courses for senior citizens a great success

Page 13

Issues were at stake (over half Europe's oil tankers are shipped across the Med, for instance)

This is true of both the Middle East conflict and of the state-backed terrorism that has exported the conflict to other parts of the world.

European Middle East initiatives such as the 1980 Venice Declaration have run aground.

There are demands on all sides for the Euro-Arab dialogue to be resumed, yet it has never led to tangible results, let alone politically relevant agreements.

European attempts to strike a balance in the Middle East may be more welcome to the Arabs than America's almost unconditional support for Israel, but the Arab world is well aware that the United States is the crucial Western power in the Mediterranean.

The sea that once was "our sea" to the Roman Empire is now a crossroads of world conflict.

It is the meeting-place of the industrialised and underdeveloped worlds, of dictatorial socialism (in Yugoslavia and Albania) and the free West.

To this day the Byzantine and Ottoman heritage divides the eastern Mediterranean from the west in social, structural, mental outlook, economic and political concepts.

Islam has split the region into a Mohammedan south and a Christian north, a division re-emphasised by confrontation between secularised Western Europe and the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism.

After the Second World War the Europeans withdrew from the Mediterranean. It has been clear since the 1956 Suez crisis, if not earlier, that the erstwhile European great powers now play only second fiddle militarily in the region.

After Suez, when Britain and France called a halt to full-scale intervention, the Soviet Union began to boost its military presence in the area.

A look at the map would seem to belie this tale of Europe forfeiting influence in the Med.

Since Greece, Spain and Portugal joined the European Community a political entity has spanned virtually the entire northern shore of the Mediterranean for the first time since the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.

The accession of Spain and Portugal has also shifted the balance in the south's favour, giving Europe a historic opportunity of establishing a new role in the region.

In foreign policy the European Community is not, of course, a protagonist that can be seen as either speaking with one voice or acting in unison. Yet since the early 1970s consideration has been given by the European Commission in Brussels to a global Mediterranean policy concept based on the Community's growing economic importance for littoral states. The European Community now has association or cooperation treaties with all Mediterranean countries except Albania and Libya. A number of Mediterranean programmes are also signed to help not only new southern members of the Common Market but also non-members in the region.

The long-term strategy is that more economic aid could foster greater stability in a crisis-torn part of the world. This illustrates the deeper reason why Europeans were against a military option in Libya: In the long term they feel the Arab world will

be unable to resist the gravitational pull of the European Community with its economic clout.

In this process military moves prompting Arab solidarisation with the unpopular Colonel Gaddafi and fuelling the fires of anti-Western Islamic fundamentalism merely upset matters.

The long-term European equation may be right, but hopes of what one day may happen have been known to foster inertia where energetic activity was required.

The European Community's rejection of an economic boycott of Libya is a case in point.

Only by showing understanding for a world power's need to adopt different tactics when the need arises can Europeans hope Washington will have more patience with their strategy.

That could be a way in which partners to the Atlantic alliance who are gradually drifting apart might regain common ground.

Giulio Andreotti
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 21 April 1986)



Chirac in Bonn

Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and French Premier Jacques Chirac walking past an honour guard on the Geulat leader's arrival in Bonn. It was M. Chirac's first visit to the German capital since taking over after the conservative victory in the French general election.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Soviet arms initiative

Bremer Nachrichten

When Mikhail Gorbachov outlined his proposals to abolish nuclear weapons by the end of the century doubts were voiced in the West whether the Soviet leader's proposals were feasible.

Moscow, it was argued, would then be able to make full use of its decisive, intolerable conventional superiority.

Regardless of whether or not this is the case, Mr Gorbachov's latest offer of both nuclear and conventional disarmament from the Atlantic to the Urals can only be termed a shrewd move.

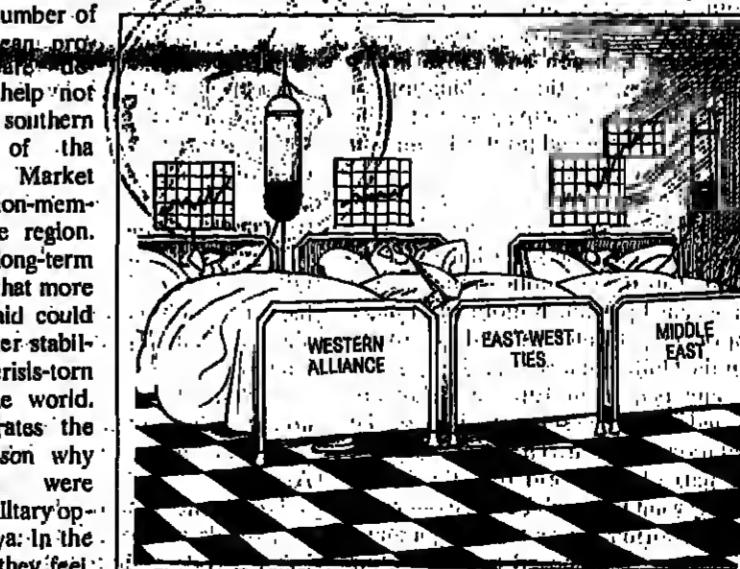
He has skilfully skirted the Western counter-argument against nuclear disarmament. Washington and its allies are back holding the baby in the disarmament debate.

Naturally the West cannot afford to naively agree to Mr Gorbachov's proposals, especially as East-West disarmament talks in Vienna, Geneva and Stockholm provide the Soviet Union with ample opportunities of showing how serious its intentions are.

The West ought not, for that matter, to shelve the Soviet proposal without further consideration. The disarmament process has ground to a standstill in recent years and the international situation is far too serious, as Libya shows, to miss many more opportunities in this sector.

Nato countries must make sure they are not forced on to the propaganda defensive by the new Gorbachov Initiative.

(Caricature: Hahn/Kolber-Stadt-Anzeiger)



Libyan raid victims

■ EUROPE

Helmut Schmidt calls for common sense

The writer of this article, Hamburg Social Democrat Helmut Schmidt, was Bonn Chancellor from 1974 to 1982. He is now co-proprietor of the newspaper weekly *Die Zeit*.

Nato solidarity is in jeopardy. Transnational terrorism may not call for mutual support by the terms of the North Atlantic pact but mutual escalation may lead to a situation in which Nato is called on to act.

We are entering a dangerous stage in a state of inadequate consultation, inadequate coordination of aims and means and inadequate cooperation.

Are we perhaps witnessing the abdication of the rationale of a joint approach?

In 1969 a military coup led by Colonel Gaddafi overthrew King Idris of Libya, since when this small but oil-rich desert state and its leader have repeatedly been at the bottom of political unrest and armed conflict in other countries, such as Chad, Sudan and others.

There can also be no doubt whatever that the Libyan leader has been involved in preparing and financing many terrorist raids in other countries. In April 1984 Libyan embassy staff in London opened fire on demonstrators, shooting and killing a young policeman.

The bombing of a West Berlin discotheque cost two lives, one of a US serviceman. The 230 people injured included 60 GIs.

Only US sources have so far clearly implicated Libya. The German authorities find the evidence is not yet conclusive. But the raid was the last straw as far as US patience was concerned.

The bombing of a West Berlin discotheque cost two lives, one of a US serviceman. The 230 people injured included 60 GIs.

Washington has grown accustomed to Europe abdicating the pursuit of Euro-

200 miles out to sea we would soon have no open sea whatever: no Aegean, no Adriatic, no Baltic, no Caribbean for all.

But were the bomb raids on Tripoli and Benghazi justified? And if they were, were they wise? What will happen if they lead to war?

Have their possible repercussions on other conflicts in the Near and Middle East, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Sudan, been considered?

How will Moscow react if Soviet military advisers training Libyans to operate Soviet weapon systems are killed?

It is reasonable to assume that the direct teleprinter link between the White House and the Kremlin has been in constant use for days. But there can be no comparison with the Cuban missile crisis.

In 1962 one superpower directly threatened the other by deploying nuclear missiles on its doorstep. And Western Europe, first and foremost President de Gaulle, lent President Kennedy unquestioning support.

Europe today is reluctant to support US moves. Britain apart, America's allies in Europe advised against bombing Libya. Some even refused American permission to use their air space.

Western European governments have gradually forfeited their influence on Nato in recent years.

In 1982 America unilaterally rejected the "walk in the woods" proposals at the Geneva arms limitation talks on medium-range missiles. Its allies were neither informed nor consulted, yet they accepted it.

In 1983 America unilaterally proclaimed a total change in Nato military strategy in the form of SDI. Again its allies were neither informed nor consulted.

They not only accepted the change; some even sought to legitimate the unilateral US move in retrospect.

Washington has grown accustomed to Europe abdicating the pursuit of Euro-

The first and most pressing conclusion to be reached in this diplomatic context is that the United States as a world power is prepared to act on its own when it feels the need to do so.

The US bombardment had much in common with the Israeli air raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis last October. Selective targets, the infrastructure of Libyan state terrorism such as barracks, staff headquarters, arms depots and training camps were attacked.

In Israel's case the motive ranged from retaliation for the murder of Israeli yachtsmen in Cyprus to demoralisation of the enemy.

Unlike Israel's, America's raid was aimed at the state of Libya, which in the shape of its supreme ruler Colonel Gaddafi identified with terrorism and practises it as a means of worldwide foreign policy.

Libya remains a nest of "Barbary pirates" and there is no substitute for a custer of the pirate chief.

We have not seen the last of what Americans began by bombing Tripoli and Benghazi. The danger has come to head and Europe's diplomatic approach is over and done with.

Feed with the facts, Europe has choice but to devote its full attention to keeping terrorism at bay.

The US motive ranged from retaliation for recent attacks on a TWA airliner and a Berlin discotheque to preventive deterrence.

This distinction is important; it denotes the new quality of the event. Libya's global terrorism is a serious danger to the civilised world. America's aim is to clip its wings.

Precise details of Libyan state terrorism are available. Between 1980 and 1985 guerrilla commandos backed, controlled or despatched by the Libyan authorities carried out raids in 18 countries and maritime areas.

They were aimed for the most part at US facilities and citizens, at transport facilities such as aircraft, airports and ships and at opponents of the Libyan leader.

In June 1984 Colonel Gaddafi announced that Libya was in a position to carry out terrorist raids in the heart of America.

On 18 September, on the 16th anniversary of his take-over of power, he said Libya had the right to fight America and to export terrorism to the United States.

But, what alternative did we Europeans have to offer to the US intention of dealing Libya a military blow? America was legally justified in sending ships into the 200-mile zone illegally proclaimed in no-go area by Colonel Gaddafi. It was equally justified in its military response to Libyan attacks.

If everyone were to unilaterally lay claim to territorial waters extending

America acts while Europe dithers over Gaddafi

Views are particularly at odds when the chips are down as they were when US planes bombed Tripoli and Benghazi.

The Russians criticised the US raids but withdrew Soviet ships from the crisis zone in time to be out of the firing line.

Southern European countries were against the bombing and refused the Americans permission to overfly their airspace.

The British and Canadians have sided with Washington. Had it not been for British support long-range US bombers could not have been sent into action.

On the eve of the mission, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called at a meeting of the European Community's Council of Ministers for tough measures against Libya.

He suggested closure of the Libyan people's bureaus (embassies) in all 12 Common Market countries and agreement on economic sanctions against Libya. Herr Genscher and others demurred.

A determined Europe would stand against Libya would have made the Americans feel military action was superfluous. European softness triggered the US raid.

News of the raid took Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher by surprise in mid-air on his way to Washington, where he was planning to counsel a diplomatic approach toward Colonel Gaddafi and his government-sponsored terrorism.

The Soviet Union supports him but not maintaining him in power. American opinion is divided even though the world may now be united in lending verbal support.

It is the old tale of the frog swimming across the Nile with a scorpion on its back. In mid-stream the scorpion, which cannot swim, stings the frog, answering the frog's dying question why with its words: "This is Africa."

That isn't to say that the American raid was wise. State terrorism cannot be dealt a deadly blow by selective strikes.

Guerrilla warfare and conventional military might have operated at different levels since the days of Mao Tse-tung. Libya may have no military answer to the US attack but it can resort to further terrorism.

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If everyone were to unilaterally lay claim to territorial waters extending

■ BONN

Dissociation without condemnation

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Almost everybody in Washington at the moment is talking about Libya. One person who doesn't like discussing the subject is German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

During his visit to Washington Genscher has again confirmed that he can take the wind out of the sails of almost any international crisis.

Many of Genscher's hosts must have been surprised at the skilful way in which Bonn's top diplomat talked about the MBFR talks on the reduction of military forces in Central Europe.

He did so while everybody else was speculating about how Colonel Gaddafi would respond to the bombing of Tripoli.

Herr Genscher seemed to breeze through Washington, Congress, the Pentagon, the State Department, back to the Capitol, the bierkeller in the German ambassador's residence, and then the White House.

He realises, of course, that he must return from Washington with some kind of credible success in order to strengthen the position of the coalition government in Bonn, whose foreign policy course is "tumultuous in the wake of the Libya crisis.

And the best thing he can come back with is news that the Federal Republic of Germany is again taking part in the international political dialogue.

Washington is a good setting for declarations on international political issues, and Genscher has cleverly made statements on the East-West dialogue, disarmament and arms control.

He has called for a politico-strategic concept for SDI plans, urged the Americans to negotiate on the banning of nuclear tests and on ceiling levels for nuclear missiles within the Salt 2 framework.

Of course, Genscher is not surprising his ministerial colleagues, Caspar Weinberger and George Shultz, or many other members of Congress just to forward his own political views.

Perhaps they are happy that somebody is willing to talk about East-West relations now. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has called off the pre-summit meeting.

This explains why Genscher, whose visit wasn't even worth a small headline in the papers, came to the conclusion after the first day of his visit that it was a very beneficial day despite the differing views on the military operation.

On the evening before his meeting with the US Foreign Minister, Genscher stated that he still didn't know what they would talk about.

He said that he usually works out his concept during breakfast or in the bath.

In Washington, he complained that the bath was too shallow, a comment which is bound to confirm the opinion of critics who feel that Genscher always finds fault with America.

However, the world's longest-serving foreign minister is troubled by the thought that the Libyan conflict may eclipse East-West relations.

Although this wouldn't postpone a new epoch of detente indefinitely, it would mean that it is out of reach for the time being.

Moscow's decision to call off the pre-summit meeting in May cannot be regarded as a catastrophe, but is the least the Soviets feel they could do in response to the US attack on Tripoli.

Ronald Reagan, on the other hand, seemed to have a different opinion. After talks in the Oval Office lasting three quarters of an hour, he personally accompanied his guest to his car.

However, hardly anyone in Washington now feels that a meeting between Reagan and Gorbachov can take place before December at the earliest.

Of course, Genscher has not been

able to avoid the burning issue of the day.

Libya is no easy topic for a European foreign minister who, like almost all Europeans, was opposed to military action but obliged to stand back and see things happen.

Genscher's stance is one of dissociation without condemnation.

He now looks towards the future in line with the motto: we now need to fight terrorism more than ever, but via political means, please.

During his years as Interior Minister in Bonn Genscher had to face up to the serious problems of terrorism.

His efforts in Washington to classify the Libyan problem and its unpleasant consequences as belonging to the general framework of the fight against terrorism is by no means an attempt to play down its significance.

It is a sensitive attempt to let the Americans know what he feels about military action.

Genscher knows that the acid test on this issue will be back home.

The *Bayernkurier* has already praised the fact that Chancellor Kohl has been able to express his clear support for the Americans in the absence of his foreign minister.

One high-ranking official in the Bonn Foreign Office feels that the bombing in Libya will lead to "even more barbed wire and even more checkpoints."

He then added that he hoped that this would be the only adverse effect of the US operation.

There's been a shift of emphasis in the work of the Bonn Foreign Office.

The members of the crisis committee, which government spokesman Friedhelm Ost now again calls the "working committee," have adopted a wait-and-see rather than hectic attitude ever since Bonn's embassy in Tripoli announced that "all is quiet in Libya."

Earlier speculation of a second American attack proved unfounded and

Wailing and moaning alone is not enough.

The *CSU* weekly newspaper *Bayernkurier* criticised the Foreign Office in Bonn for "pussyfooting" and at the same time praised Chancellor Kohl in an effort to create a gap between the two.

There are now fears that the American attack on Libya and its civilian victims may lead to an upsurge in anti-Americanism in the Federal Republic of Germany and other European countries.

This would make the relationship between Europe and the USA more complicated.

Chancellor Kohl is aware of this danger, which explains why he emphatically declared his understanding for the Americans and emphasised that military action should not be used to "step up a primitive anti-Americanism."

There is nevertheless growing concern that one of the consequences of the military attack on Libya will be a transatlantic estrangement.

Finally, there is concern about how Gaddafi will respond to the attack. Will he be impressed by the operation?

A Foreign Office spokesman in Bonn said that there is "enough evidence for his irrational behaviour" and that "it must be feared that his response will be equally irrational." Terrorism, it is claimed, cannot be fought via military action.

In the Bundestag Social Democrat Hans-Jürgen Wischniowski, an Opposition expert on Arab affairs, referred to the new hatred and threats the attack will trigger.

Chancellor Kohl also seemed to share this concern as he underlined that all precautions have been taken to guarantee the safety of the German population and foreigners living in Germany.

The precautionary measures taken in Bonn and elsewhere in the Federal Republic reveal both how determined and how worried the government is in this respect.

Will the latter be at all willing to talk now that the American attack has forced them to declare their solidarity with the unpopular Libyan regime?

Kohl keen to rule out risk of transatlantic estrangement

Admittedly, the exact nature of possible suggestions by the European Community on how to solve the Middle East conflict and of initiatives in this field is still not clear.

In this context many diplomats openly admit that the Community has failed. The 14 April Hague declaration ought, they say, to have been made in January.

The USA might then have gained the impression that it had the support of its allies, a fact which might then have fore-stalled the attack on Libya.

Some observers feel that the European Community was too weak and too indecisive for too long. It should have acted more resolutely, they claim.

Others feel that, although the Community knew that pussyfooting was not the right approach, it was the Italians and Greeks who earlier said no to active support for the USA against the terror emanating from Libya.

Chancellor Kohl said more or less the same thing with the authority of a head of government.

■ BERLIN

Allies order clamp-down on terrorist suspects after disco bomb raid

America, Britain and France have ordered a clamp-down on terrorist suspects in the Western sectors of Berlin after the bomb raid on a discotheque in the US sector for which the Americans blame Libyan terrorists.

"With immeasurable effect," the Allies tersely and unambiguously announced, "the West Berlin authorities are requested to expel from the Western sectors persons identified as a threat to the people of Berlin."

These instructions to the Senate and police by the commanding officers of the US, British and French garrisons in the divided city were contained in a "Berlin Commandant Letter."

The Allies retain overall authority in Berlin by virtue of their status as occupying powers.

Their instructions to the civilian authorities were in response to the bomb raid on the La Belle discotheque that killed two and injured over 200 people.

The Americans say the raid was the handiwork of Libyan terrorists and aimed at the Americans in Berlin.

The civilian investigating authorities are less sure. A spokesman for the Berlin Stasi says there are no specific pointers to Libyans having been responsible.

The bloodbath at the La Belle was not the first terrorist raid in Berlin but it has been the most devastating yet.

The Western Allies were forced to act

DIE WELT

because terrorists from East Berlin are free to come and go, there being no restrictions on entry to West Berlin.

The Berlin Wall enables the GDR to pick and choose who crosses the East-West border. So does the subway system which, unlike Checkpoint Charlie, the West cannot effectively keep tabs on.

Border checks are problematic for the West. The Western Allies insist on the Four-Power status of Greater Berlin and on freedom of movement between East and West.

The Eastern view is that Allied status applies only to the US, British and French sectors. As for freedom of movement, the Berlin Wall testifies to Eastern views on the subject.

The Western Allies, anxious not to jeopardise freedom of movement in theory, stress that their latest instructions are "extraordinary and provisional" and not intended to affect the "principle of freedom of movement in Berlin."

This is a point on which the Allies are extremely sensitive. In 1950 they threatened to arrest the mayor of Kreuzberg when he went it alone and closed his borough's border with East Berlin for six hours.

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US presence in divided city

The US military presence in Berlin began on 4 July 1945 when the 2nd Armoured Infantry Division marched into the Four-Power city. US forces have been stationed in Berlin since.

The US presence immediately assumed the crucial importance it is to the transition in status to occupying to protecting power.

Its purpose today is to show that and demonstrate to potential adversaries US determination to guarantee freedom of West Berlin.

The US Berlin Brigade consists of 6,000 service personnel and about 6,000 dependents. They live in the barracks, fenced-off residential and ordinary apartment blocks.

Officers and diplomats live in detached houses in residential suburbs. The US mission, manned by about 60 diplomats, is the successor to the US military government.

It and its British and French counterparts exercise ultimate control over the Senate, or civilian administration, via the Allied Kommandatur, which supervises Four-Power rights and responsibilities for Berlin as a whole.

Over the decades US forces have developed a comprehensive infrastructure of public buildings between residential and shopping areas and barracks.

The PX is at the Truman Plaza Clayallee, a group of squat buildings on a large parking lot that is constantly patrolled by German guards.

US services at the Truman Plaza range from a laundrette, bookshop to a supermarket and service restaurant and cater for all-day needs.

They are a virtually round-the-clock loophole. About 540 trains a day stop at Friedrichstrasse in the East before returning to West Berlin where passengers can leave them (and give the police the slip) at any one of 49 stations.

A foolproof check of everyone who may have boarded trains at Friedrichstrasse is virtually impossible and not intended.

But the Allies are said to have instructed the police in West Berlin to keep an eye open for suspects.

Another reason why the authorities are exercising caution in connection with indispensable security measures is GDR leader Erich Honecker's reaction to the discotheque bombing.

He expressed regret, condemned the bloodshed and welcomed security checks even before their exact nature had been decided on. Such spontaneity generates mistrust.

The East claims there are three German states: the Federal Republic, the GDR and the "special entity" of Berlin (West).

This theory would be reinforced if West Berlin were to introduce checks that could be interpreted as upgrading the status of the border between the Eastern and Western sectors of the city.

The West has no plans to do anything of the kind. The GDR, in contrast, could readily make an effective contribution toward fighting international terrorism.

It would need only to stem the tide of asylum-seekers (7,000 so far this year) and terrorist suspects to West Berlin.

This is something the GDR could do with ease, the system of controls on the Eastern side of the Wall being well-nigh perfect.

Dieter Dose

In 1981 they nipped in the bud any ideas former Interim Senator Heinrich Lüthi may have had of border checks to stem the tide of Third World applicants for political asylum via East Berlin.

The situation has now changed. The security of the city and the Allied forces that guarantee its freedom is now at stake.

Allied and Senate authorities are not saying what checks are planned. They would clearly be far less effective if known in advance.

Border checks are problematic for the West. The Western Allies insist on the Four-Power status of Greater Berlin and on freedom of movement between East and West.

Checks have been intensified at border crossing points, especially checks of foreign nationals. Suspicious vehicles or individuals are stopped and checked.

A blanket ban on Libyan diplomats from the Libyan people's bureau near the Ministry of State Security in East Berlin was expected but has not been confirmed by the Allied Kommandatur.

The Americans are known to have been keen on a ban, but the French seem to have vetoed the idea.

But cars with Libyan CD-plates have already been tackled by the police in West Berlin on several occasions after passing through Checkpoint Charlie.

Checks at Checkpoint Charlie and other official crossing points are no problem. The problem is the three subway lines (two S-Bahn and one U-Bahn) that cross East Berlin and stop at Friedrichstrasse station.

They are a virtually round-the-clock loophole. About 540 trains a day stop at Friedrichstrasse in the East before returning to West Berlin where passengers can leave them (and give the police the slip) at any one of 49 stations.

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The few advantages US servicemen in Berlin have over their counterparts in the Federal Republic include cut-price phone calls home.

Every battalion and independent company has its "telephone phone" for use outside service hours, weekends and on holidays.

Joint US-German police patrols at another special feature for US forces in Europe. Thirty Berlin police officers have accompanied US military police patrols for years.

Their services are invaluable when language problems arise between Americans and Germans, which is mainly the case in traffic accidents.

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Dieter Dose

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 April 1986)

HISTORY

500 tons of Nazi records kept at former Gestapo phone-tapping centre in Berlin

The discreetly named Document Centre in Zehlendorf, Berlin, is in one of the city's highest-class residential suburbs.

It is surrounded by pine woods and is not far from Schlachtensee and Krumme Lanke, lakes which are popular with joggers and ramblers alike.

The houses on Wasserstraße are only one storey high, but there are two more storeys with a maze-like bunker system of corridors, stairs and large, steel-bolted rooms below ground level.

The steel doors conceal almost 30 million files and cards and hundreds of millions of individual sheets of historical records of the Third Reich.

When Daniel Simon, the American who has been in charge of the Centre since the mid-1970s, talks about the archive's facts and figures he almost sounds as rational as a business manager talking about his company's product range.

However, Simon's facts and figures are only impressive in a macabre kind of way.

Together with the almost entire central files of the Nazi Party the Centre contains the personal files of over half a million members of the SS, from the Untersturmführer to the rank of officer, discovered by US troops in the Harz and Tirol regions.

Each of these files also records details of the family trees of the female partners of these SS men.

In addition, there are half a million SA files with personnel questionnaires and details of disciplinary procedures, as well as 115,000 — probably 10 per cent — of the documents of the district and gau courts, the senior Nazi party court and the Volksgerichtshof, together with the personal files of their judges.

Also recorded are 40,000 names (roughly 80 per cent) of the Reich doctors' registry, files on Nazi teachers, lecturers and technicians and about 2.5 million documents from the Immigration and Resettlement Head Office.

Then come half a million files from the Reich Chamber of Culture and information and correspondence from the Nazi Party headquarters and the Reich Chancellery.

They represent a meticulous documentation of the fathers and grandfathers of post-war Germans.

Our "guide" through this depressing

I and my wife prefer to die — Adolf Hitler, 29 April 1945

labyrinth suddenly stopped and pulled out and opened up one of the files.

The handwritten document he showed us marks the end of German megalomania. The following can be read beneath the part headed "Will":

"I myself and my spouse have chosen to die rather than suffer the ignominy of deposition or capitulation. It is our last will to be burnt at the place where I spent most of my working life during the twelve years I served my people. Written on 29 April, 1945, 8 a.m. — Adolf Hitler."

During the days which followed the Third Reich collapsed once and for all.

The advancing troops of the 7th US Army discovered a large number of documents which were to be found at a paper mill in Munich.

The documents contained file-cards bearing the names of 10.7 million members of the Nazi Party.

Allied troops also came across other files and documents in offices, administrative buildings and hideouts in other parts of Germany.

All these documents provided an insight into the personnel organisation structure in Nazi Germany.

An almost complete personnel archive on the hierarchy in Hitler's Germany came to light (about 400 tons of material).

All this material was then collected, examined and filed away at the Document Centre in Berlin-Zehlendorf, in a building which was once the telephone tapping head office of the Nazis' secret

state police, the Gestapo. The harness-looking Document Centre is closely guarded and surrounded by barbed wire. It is run by the US State Department in Washington.

However, the past comes to life again as soon as Daniel Simon or one of his colleagues opens up one of the files.

For example, the Assessment of SS Hauptsturmführer Dr Josef Mengele, who for many years was wanted for having murdered about 2,000 people and been an accessory to the murder of 200,000 people in his capacity as camp doctor at Auschwitz.

In no other archive in the world is there such a comprehensive documentation of a system of terror and of the organisation of one of the most atrocious crimes in the history of mankind.

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Any SS man who wanted to get married had to make an application at his head office, provide proof of Aryan descent dating back 200 years, bring along personal assessments by third parties, and answer a tremendous number of personal questions.

As regards his fiancée, the decisive factors were whether she was "fond of children," "home-loving, fickle, excess-

SS bride-to-be must be home-loving and fond of children

ively fond of dressing up," "thrifty or extravagant" and "suitable to be the wife of a member of the SS."

Finally, both the SS man and his bride-to-be had to undergo medical examinations, in which a very close look was taken at the shape of their skulls ("medium-length, round"), "ebesta" ("well-rounded, barrel-shaped, flat and sunken"), stomach ("firm, fat, flabby"), skin colour ("pink-white, ivory-coloured, olive-brown"), the colour of their hair and eyes, and every possible part of their bodies to ensure that they matched the Aryan ideal and to determine whether "reproduction in the national sense is desirable."

According to Simon, between 3,000 and 4,000 inquiries are made at the Centre each month, most of them relating to questions concerning the pension rights and citizenship problems of migrants.

The atmosphere in the endless corridors of endless shelves of files is impersonal.

The Centre's friendly members of "staff" can be seen buried in their documents or filling out forms.

■ AGRICULTURE

Farm policy is criticised but nothing gets done

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) would cost German taxpayers less if the entire system of European Community price guarantees and national subsidies was scrapped and German farmers were paid senior-grade civil service salaries.

Equations of this kind invariably come in mind when the farming lobby joins forces to complain how bony-off farmers are.

Both arguments are corroborated by the fact that farmers are only paid 10 pfennigs of every deutschmark in agricultural subsidies, the remainder seeping through countless leaks in the system.

The DM50bn of farm subsidies in the European Community budget is barely half the price consumers and taxpayers pay to help farmers make ends meet.

Retinal prices make up the lion's share of subsidies. They are well above world market levels for almost all farm produce.

Yet no matter how much this shortcoming of the CAP may be lamented and reforms may be called for, no Common Market country has any serious intention of enlisting the system into question.

Some don't want to rock the boat because they net handsome CAP surpluses. Others foot the bill but are reluctant to sever this key link between member-countries and areaunching about root-and-branch reforms of the set-up.

These others include the Bonn government, which pursues policies that are poles apart from the lip service it pays to CAP reform.

For years Bonn led the field in calling for the consolidation and streamlining of a common market that nonetheless regularly allowed itself the luxury of substantial farm price increases.

Bonn has now taken to applying the brakes whenever the European Commission embarks on slow progress toward reform.

The latest Bonn Cabinet decisions on "realignment" of CAP and national flanking support measures in welfare and structural policy are a further milestone toward making German farm policy totally incredible in the European Community.

This year the European Commission in Brussels expects there to be a substantial supplementary budget. The European Community budget is gradually assuming nightmare proportions for the Bonn Finance Minister.

About 70 per cent goes toward the cost of maintaining enormous stocks of butter, powdered milk, meat and foodgrain and the further cost of selling farm surpluses all over the world at throwaway prices.

The latest and most outrageous instance is the sale of surplus butter to the Soviet Union, which is paying 20 pfennigs for the half-pound packet of butter that seldom costs German consumers less than two marks.

Yet the Bonn government has no qualms about voting against farm price cuts in Brussels no matter how modest the proposals may be.

Chancellor Kohl's government may be entitled to claim alleviating circumstances in a pre-election year, but although the January 1987 general election may explain Bonn's inconsistent farm policies, they can hardly be said to hold forth any prospect of future improvement.

This is most clearly evidenced by dubious promises in connection with

provement. No government returned next January, be it led by Helmut Kohl or Johannes Rau, will summon the courage to pursue agricultural policies aimed at encouraging essential structural change.

Governments will continue to seek a solution to agricultural hardship in state control, protectionism and subsidies and to "sell" farmers a patent truth.

Farmers will continue to be told that competition is intended to ensure survival of the fittest in trade and industry, whereas the family farm cannot possibly be called into question.

In other words, agriculture will continue to be protected by the CAP from the chill winds of competition.

The Cabinet's decisions on national support measures included only one point that can be considered at all encouraging.

It was that if extra subsidies were to be paid, they must not be paid to rich and poor farmers alike on the basis of the "watering can" principle.

Welfare or market?

They must be aimed specifically at farmers who benefit least from the blessings of the CAP price support system.

This decision cannot be rated as more than an election campaign manoeuvre. The government has no more intention than ever of drawing a clear dividing line between welfare handouts and rational market policies.

This is most clearly evidenced by dubious promises in connection with

Continued from page 2

anxiety as cowardice, saying: "The Europeans want to chicken out, leaving it to us Americans to keep the peace."

European governments certainly seem to have underestimated President Reagan's motivation in this context.

Besides, Europe lacks leadership. There are hundreds of sessions of ministers and heads of government but there is no joint leadership.

It would probably have been right to recall European companies and their staff from Libya, to close Libyan embassies and to buy no more Libyan oil (especially with more than enough oil available in world markets).

On this basis the Europeans could have brought pressure to bear on Washington.

It still isn't too late to try. European governments that prefer at this stage to

maintain a low profile, perhaps hoping that if lightning strikes it will at least hit someone else, would be abandoning political common sense.

They would be surrendering in advance to future developments with no possibility of bringing the least influence to bear on them.

A cool and level-headed appraisal of the situation and its risks and opportunities is called for — and joint action on this basis.

Common interests such as peace in Europe are, after all, at stake.

Colonel Gaddafi is a misguided idealist who has long and often resorted to violence in despair at the rejection of his ideals by the rest of the world. President Reagan is a moralist. European governments must be realists.

Helmut Schmidt
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 18 April 1986)

220,000 suppliers of 75,000 products 'made in Germany'

Einkaufs-1x1
der Deutschen Industrie

NCR Datenverarbeitung

IBM

Siemens

The soft landing of the dollar, the more or less successful round of interest rate reductions among the most important currencies and the recent sharp decline in oil prices, must have made for a better atmosphere at the spring conferences of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington.

A more realistic dollar exchange rate leading to a drop in interest rates and, on balance, a reduction in oil prices, must have improved the growth rate chances of the oil-importing industrial countries as well as the heavily-indebted oil-importing countries of the Third World.

About 400 officials, including 70 finance ministers and 70 central bank chiefs, attended the interim and development aid committee of the two organisations, as did well over 300 journalists.

The finance ministers and central bank chiefs of heavily-indebted and poor countries complained louder than a year ago. But the sharpest complaints were made by the heavily-indebted oil-exporting countries.

They, moreover, that the rich creditor countries were getting richer, because of falling oil prices and more favourable terms of trade.

The finance ministers and central bank chiefs of the Group of 24 issued a surprisingly sobering communiqué that contained a statement on the debt problem that had been worked out before in detail in Buenos Aires.

High hopes brought about by the New York Plaza Decisions last September and the submissions made in the Baker Plan at the last IMF and World Bank meetings in Seoul lie behind the complaints from the Third World, particularly the heavily-indebted Latin American countries.

There are also the legitimate grounds they have for complaint due to increasing protectionist tendencies among the industrialised countries.

This last prevents the heavily-indebted countries from earning hard currencies so as to service the enormous interest rates they have to pay on loans. Furthermore the delegations from the Third World saw little light at the end of the tunnel after Washington made soundings about further international agreement on interest rate reductions that trickled through from the informal meetings of the Group of Five.

Finance ministers and central bank heads were more concerned with their own problems. They did not regard the crisis situation in Mexico as an acute danger to the international financial system.

German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg dealt with the looming trade war between Washington and Brussels in his talks with his former colleague and now chief of staff at the White House, Donald Regan.

Behind the scenes there was heated

■ MARKETS

Rich get richer despite lower interest rates, oil prices

debate about extending the Group of Five to include Italy and Canada.

This unleashed speculation that if, under political pressure and with foreign policy considerations in mind, the Group of Five was extended to a Group of Seven, an informal Group of Three would be required, made up of the USA, Japan and West Germany.

This discreet group would be able to direct the course of monetary, economic and development aid policies, but such a development would raise temperatures in London and Paris.

Thus the governors of the IMF and the World Bank remained in a stalemate, because of the allocations made to the sluggish Baker initiatives that called for a "surplus".

This created speculation and, for some, agitation about the plans of the US Treasury whose operations chief, Ernest Stern, is to be replaced by David Mulford, an under-secretary responsible for development aid policies.

This agitation was manifest not only among Third World countries, who fear the imposition of extensive limitations on multilateral offers of credit.

The extent of the limits to credit conditions, imposed by the framework of the Baker initiatives, is the main point of dispute in the North-South dialogue on debts.

The Americans were confronted in the development aid committee with demands to turn their promises into acts and to agree to the International Development Association aid pledges and to capital increase for the World Bank within the spirit of the Baker initiatives.

It was obvious from the beginning that nothing much would happen at these Washington meetings on monetary reform, even though Washington triggered nervous headlines in connection with proposals for reform of the monetary system.

The abridged "innovations" worked out by the Group of Ten served rather to improve the present system. These innovations were confirmed by study papers on monetary reform presented in June last year in Tokyo.

They dealt with developing guidelines for supervising currencies and developing the means of giving greater publicity to the IMF's assessments of countries.

There is no majority in the IMF membership for a new, major currency conference, let alone far-reaching measures to fix

exchange rates. This is so even if Washington, under Treasury Secretary James Baker, has given the green light for fundamentally closer currency policy cooperation in the spirit of the Baker initiatives.

This would mean solid intervention for the stabilisation of exchange currencies.

Klaus G. Engelen
(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 11 April 1986)

New-look development policies remedy past mistakes

West German development aid funds were first allocated 30 years ago, and the results achieved by handing out billions are very sobering.

In many Third World countries living standards have worsened, incomes have declined and the environment has been harmed. Only indebtedness has increased.

Although in extreme emergencies appeals for aid are never disregarded, development aid as such is no longer as sacrosanct as it was in the 1960s, when so many decolonised countries had to face up to realities after the exuberance of independence.

The belief that money could turn the wests of the Third World into Gardens of Eden was disappointed and has now developed into pessimism. The wastes have not been brought to life; they have been extended in fact.

Cities in the Third World have not blossomed into trade, industrial and intellectual centres. They have become nests of crime and present a picture of chaotic proliferation making them ungovernable.

In this situation governments have to do something about their development aid policies.

Bonn's Development Aid Minister Jürgen Warneke recently presented new guidelines for development aid policies, showing that the Ministry is willing to learn from its past mistakes.

Certainly what has been done in the past presents a bleak picture.

Asia, a part of the world beset with famine in the 1960s, is now experiencing an economic boom that stimulates fears and, at the same time, respects among Western industrialised countries.

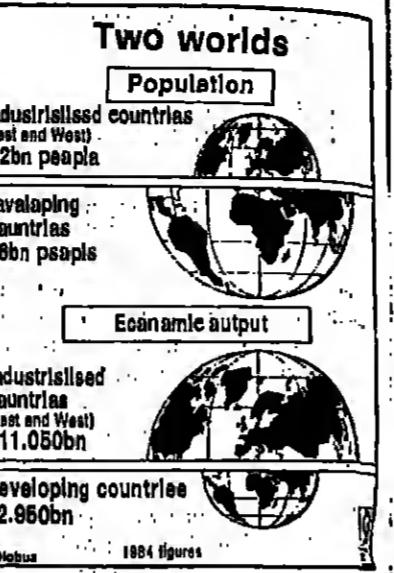
As a result a large part of Africa's doings and dealings have been brought to a standstill.

Bonn's new development aid policy is to go about things more modestly. This means turning away from lavish building projects of the past with their complicated influences on nature and the environment.

There are to be no more unproductive steelworks in primeval forest, no dams and prestige buildings. Attention is to be paid to ordinary people and their modest needs.

It is certainly better to gain acceptance for such development aid policies. People approve of helping the poorest of the poor, complying with the humanitarian tradition of Christianity.

Furthermore such policies encourage the lower levels of the population to assert themselves more.



■ RESEARCH

Max Planck scientists probe macromolecules in Mainz

The reason is that softener molecules block molecular movement within the polymer, thereby limiting elasticity.

Nuclear resonance spectroscopy is used for measurement purposes. It involves making magnetic nuclei oscillate and is a long-established method but has yet to be used much in solid-state research.

Hydrogen atoms in the polymer are replaced by deuterium atoms that have identical chemical behaviour but emit different signals.

In this way clear marking of the material is possible. Professor Spiess and his associates have improved the procedure so that two-dimensional measurements can be taken, with the result that graph readings now show the angle at which a molecule has moved.

There could hardly be a more elegant way of making dynamic processes with-in a polymer visible.

These lateral chains have a spacing effect and are said to reduce interaction between the parallel chains.

Mainz physicists are working on materials made of "rigid" macromolecules. They consist of molecule chains arranged in rigid stick patterns rather than the usual spaghetti-like confusion.

The Americans for instance then began to step up their plastics research too, increasing government and industrial research funding.

IBM alone endowed scholarships in polymer science at 12 US university departments.

Staff at the Mainz Institute so far number 139, including 38 scientists (physicists, chemists and engineers) and 42 graduates working on diplomas or PhDs.

There are three departments: chemistry of polymers, headed by Professor Gerhard Wegner; physics of polymers, headed by Professor Erhard Pirscher; and solid state spectroscopy, headed by Professor Hans Spiess.

Construction work is about to begin on a new, specially designed building. Completion of the first section is scheduled for 1988, of the second for 1990.

By then the institute will comprise six departments and have a payroll of 250.

Polymers are gigantic molecules consisting of smaller units known as monomers that are linked in chains in the process of polymerisation.

The complex structures of these macromolecules is to be analysed. Their properties are to be probed and the physical and chemical bases of their behaviour determined.

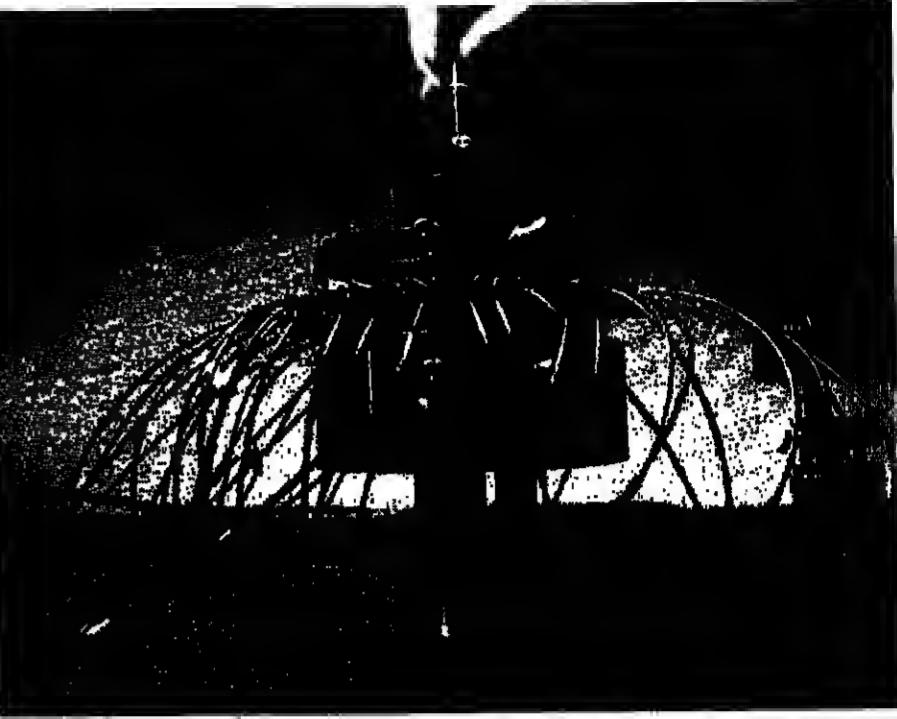
Not until scientists have a clear idea of a polymer's make-up can polymers be tailor-made to suit specific requirements.

The properties of materials depend on the mobility of their constituent parts. Molecular movement occurs, albeit on a smaller scale, even in solid materials such as polymers.

Another research priority in Mainz is to investigate the link between molecular dynamics and material properties. Exciting findings have already been made in this sector.

Processing synthetic materials is best done at the lowest possible temperature. Softeners are often added to the basic material to lower the processing temperature.

Sad to say, this frequently results in the finished product being brittle. Max Planck scientists in Mainz have found out why.



Laboratory equipment at Mainz lab

(Photo: MPO)

certain substances (soap, for instance) to spread in monomolecular fashion on the surface of water.

The hydrophilic side of the molecule faces the water, the hydrophobic side points in the other direction.

When a film carrier is dipped in a layer of this kind a coating remains, and the more often the process is repeated the more coatings are superimposed on each other.

To stabilise them dyestuffs are incorporated that trigger a polymerisation process when exposed to light.

If different dyes are used, light can be filtered to polymerise one layer after another.

Colour photography is a sector in which it is easy to envisage this process proving invaluable, but Professor Wegner says this isn't yet feasible.

These coatings could, however, be used as electrochemical sensors or electro-optical units. So polymers have a bright future.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,

Bonn, 15 March 1986)

Research vessel Meteor on maiden voyage

The German research vessel Meteor has been officially taken into service in Hamburg. It takes over from the old Meteor, which was sold to New Zealand after 21 years in service.

The new floating research laboratory built at the Schichthof shipyard in Lübeck at a cost of roughly DM100m is 98 metres (321 ft 6 in) long and 17 metres (55 ft 9 in) wide. Its crew of 33 and complement of 29 scientists have set sail for the Caribbean, then for the Indian Ocean.

The new vessel is designed to cater for the growing demands of multi-disciplinary marine research, including international marine ecology, marine biology, oceanography, maritime climate research, meteorology, geophysics and geology.

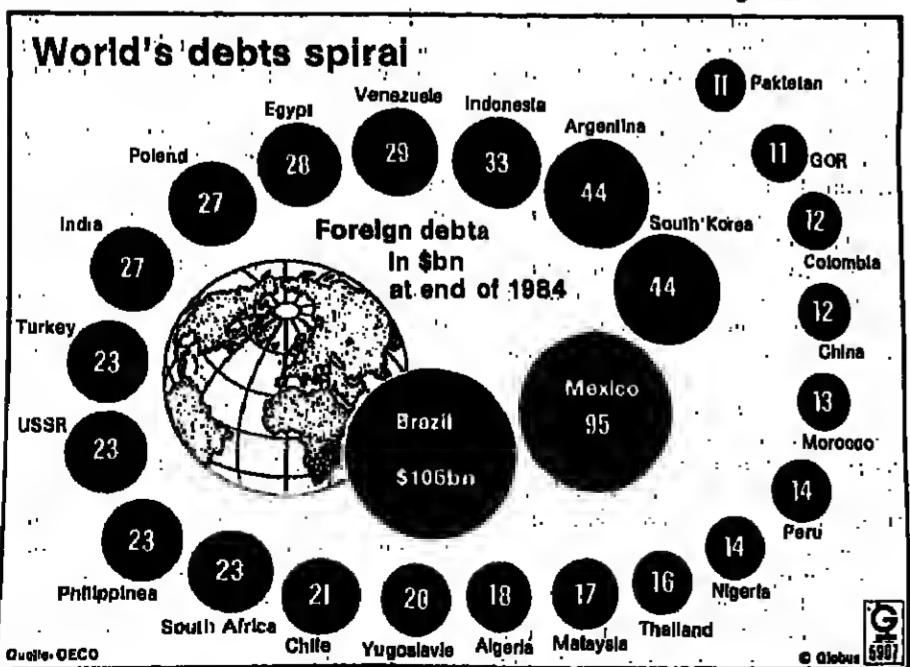
Further projects, partly extending beyond the generally accepted scope of marine research, will deal with topics such as atmospheric chemistry, taxonomy and equipment and operational technology.

Extensive special equipment is available on board the new Meteor to cater for these wide-ranging requirements.

The ship includes special features such as the first ever combination of an asymmetrical stern and a flexible-bearing shaft, an extremely economical central hydraulic system with secondary switchgear and both active and passive stability aids.

The Meteor has a high-performance fin rudder, a controlled water-jet system to the fore, diesel electrical propulsion, a garbage incinerator, central handling and control facilities and so on.

(Nürmberger Nachrichten, 21 March 1986)



The new Meteor in her home port

(Photo: BPK)

■ CINEMA

Rosa Luxemburg, life and death of a revolutionary

Stolze Großstadt

Once upon a time there was a German revolution. It was typically organised and regulated. The revolutionaries voted to buy platform tickets to enable them to take the platform by storm.

But when they turned up they found that the impetus of the revolutionary masses had beaten them to it by two whole days.

This was how Lenin humorously described German left-wing efforts at revolution after the First World War.

On 9 November 1918 a general strike and armed riots in Berlin gave the Reich, which had just lost the war, its last push.

Karl Liebknecht, leader of the Communist Party, proclaimed a socialist republic from the balcony of the Imperial Palace.

In reply to this, Philipp Scheidemann of the Social Democrats proclaimed a democratic republic in the Reichstag.

The film "November Revolution" describes in a few hours in film one of most troubled chapters in German history and its painful and sometimes bloody confrontations between followers of Soviet Socialist democracy and Social Democracy from which the Social Democrats emerged victorious.

Admittedly, memories of the first Socialist Democratic Republic under Friederich Ebert and Philipp Scheidemann is to this day blemished by the responsibility for the way in which revolutionary leaders were eliminated.

Revolutionary leaders Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and Leo Jörges were murdered by the German army and volunteer corps in a purge ordered by Ebert.

The staging of this arbitrary act remained half-explained and unpunished.

The cases of Liebknecht and Luxemburg did actually come to trial. However, the two people found guilty were released shortly afterwards and went into hiding.

Once upon a time there was a German revolutionary. She was a Jewess from the Polish city of Zamosc.

She went to Germany because she believed there was imminent hope of revolution taking place there.

She was Rosa Luxemburg, who in January 1919 was beaten half to death by rifle butts and then shot in the head. She was 47. Her body was dumped in a nearby canal.

Rosa Luxemburg counts for many of the most lively and vivid Marxist planners.

She exemplified the agitational power of radical protest. She was to influence the left-wing movements of the 1960s who carried her picture on placards through the streets of Paris and Berlin.

Unlike Lenin she rejected short-term compromise between violence and revolution. She expected everything from the momentum of revolutionary spontaneity and participation of the masses.

She is for many a Marxist theorist with a human face. She achieved immortality with her thesis that once and for all defined freedom as the right of others to think differently.

Margarethe von Trotta's latest film about the life of Rosa Luxemburg is an attempt to rehabilitate Red or Bloody Rosa, as the incited crowds then called her.

All in all it is an honourable and courageous attempt, particularly when one recalls the public anger Social Democrat Horst Ehmke encountered as Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in 1973 when he tried to issue a commemorative stamp to mark her birth centenary.

The film's inoffensiveness is bound to ensure that tempers remain under control, but this inoffensiveness accounts for the main distortion of the film's subject.

If one attempts to summarise the facets of the film's subject, one is left with a Rosa who is a cross between a Red and a Green, or environmentalist.

She is infatuated with plants and animals and suffers from unfulfilled wishes.

Her lover, Leo Jörges, refuses to give her a baby and his unreserved love. When he pleads on her, she turns to the somewhat younger son of her friend Klara Zeitku.

Frau von Trotta has lied killed in the Great War, which actually happened in Hans Diefenbach, his successor.

This is the grossest breach of authenticity of which the script can be accused.

Frau von Trotta got her information word for word from a bundle of roughly 2,000 letters, most written during imprisonment in different prisons.

Many of them belong to the pearls of German correspondence literature. They attest to Rosa Luxemburg's much-praised vivid, graphic and gripping style.

They reveal her cursed lust to be happy, her passionate explosive temperament that was fiery enough to set a prairie ablaze.

A group of old men are shown in the film to be the chief victims of this tempest.

Among them one can recognise the leadership of the left wing of the SPD, including August Bebel and Karl Kautsky. They are shown receiving a tickling off from Rosa.

Many film directors wonder whether the cinema can survive the challenge of satellite television and videos and make it into the next century.

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Barbara Sukowa as Rosa Luxemburg and Otto Sander as Karl Liebknecht in Margarethe von Trotta's film.

(Photo: Concord-Film)

The film is characterised by a concerned reverential honesty. But at the same time it suffers from a stiff, frightened lack of inspiration.

When Rosa newly arrives in Berlin, she is ironically surprised at the thoroughly bourgeois disposition of the SPD.

It came as a surprise to her for example that the wife of the great Karl Kautsky should be wearing an apron.

The film made out in this involved welcoming scene in which Luise Kautsky and Rosa exchange niceties while putting on and taking off their aprons.

She tended to limp too much, something which the indolent Rosa allegedly disguised quite well. The speeches were unconvincing and came across as empty rhetoric.

On the other hand she possessed something of greater relevance. As an actress she has an open, intellectual passion, and how many actresses can claim to have?

Otto Sander as Liebknecht delivered one of his sharply outlined vignettes. Jan Paul Bielecki gave stature to his performance of Bebel. The rest of the cast were of second rank and that includes Daniel Olbrychski as Jörges.

Margarethe von Trotta deserves credit for Rosa Luxemburg being jailed again and again perhaps here and there she is being read again.

European publishing houses have reasonably priced copies of her work in print.

Brigitte Desqin

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 12 April 1986)

the contrary, that the cinema still has chance.

This year about 50 films from eight countries were shown in four weeks with several films being given repeat showings.

Directors featured included the well-known names such as Jiri Bartek from the Czech Republic and Jan Kounen from France, Olaf Olszewski and Andrzej Pilipi from Poland.

Polish films were the focal point of the programme. In addition the Jirí Bartek black comedy "Life is Beautiful" and the West German contribution "Touché" by Dieter Funke and Bernd Ertz went down well.

The rural population has enthusiastically followed the often difficult films, putting up with the difficult messages of the directors and being alert at the ensuing discussions.

Film directors are nearly always enthusiastic about such small festivals.

Directors like the closeness of contact and the unpretentiousness of the conversations with the public.

Such are the advantages of small festivals and they prove, despite fears to

■ THE ARTS

International Shakespeare buffs meet in Berlin

DIE WELT

The International Shakespeare Association held its third congress in West Berlin (congresses are organised every five years).

The week-long conference, meeting at the Technical University to discuss the Swan of Avon, was given the vague slogan "Images of Shakespeare".

Apart from the professional Shakespeare experts there were many others interested in the lectures, seminars, films, exhibitions and theatrical productions provided by the event.

The eye-catcher in the university foyer was a display of costumes from the stock of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The costumes were from famous productions of the 25-year-old company.

Speech scenes showing the effect of the orator's magnetic charisma are the nadir of the film.

A surprising point in the film's favour is Barbara Sukowa. She plays a slender blonde Rosa, the physical opposite of what she actually looked like.

Now and then she shows the strain having to project herself into the role of a larger-than-life personality.

She tended to limp too much, something which the indolent Rosa allegedly disguised quite well. The speeches were unconvincing and came across as empty rhetoric.

Much more seemed terribly remote to the outsiders at the conference: for instance the opening lecture by Samuel Schoenbaum, a portrait of Shakespeare that was very academic and not particularly revealing.

Nevertheless there was no Ivory tower atmosphere at the conference. Experts from the English-speaking world showed once more that popularising serious academic matters does not necessarily lead to a lack of seriousness.

The Bochum expert Peter Wenzel gave a clever lecture on the problem of translating Shakespeare. He called for theatrical and ordinary reader translations of the plays.

This is a good suggestion for the syntax of the famous Schlegel-Tieck German translations is not always easy on the ear.

About 25 per cent of Shakespeare productions in West Germany, Austria and Switzerland rely on the early 19th century German Romantic translations.

A further 25 per cent are versions of the plays that are less articulate than the original managers.

The remainder use modern translations such as those by Hans Röhl, Erich Fried, B. K. Tragelahn and Frank Günther whose translations have been very successful in the past few years.

Lawrence McNamee of the East Texas State University quoted George Bernard Shaw in his lecture on the secret of Shakespeare's popularity: In Germany Shaw regretted that "we English are always losing the real Shakespeare whilst his translators can always adapt him".

The "Secret" in the title of this lecture, he explained, is that Shakespeare is regarded in Germany as a poet with extraordinary dramatic talent, whilst in America he is regarded as a playwright

to be read and in Britain he is seen mainly as a teacher and philosopher.

Wilhelm Hartmann, an English literature expert from Duisburg, said that 1986 would be the year in which German theatres battled with Hamlet. More theatres in this country than ever before have announced new productions of this play for the coming season.

It would, indeed, be most interesting to see a Japanese Macbeth, not from film-maker Akira Kurasawa but a stage production.

On the fringe of the conference there was an art exhibition in which 45 artists, living in Berlin, took part.

Associations from Shakespeare's oeuvre were placed side by side in a most interesting manner.

Some of the themes most favoured were A Midsummer Night's Dream, followed closely by Hamlet. Helmut Middendorf produced a most curious interpretation of the Prince of Denmark with his German Double-Hamlet, interesting at first glance, that is.

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One good thing came out of the conference. In front of hundreds of witnesses promises were made that a square would be named Shakespeare-Platz in front of the opera house.

Rainer Nolden

(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 April 1986)

Tsutsuo Kishi from Kyoto drew interesting parallels between Shakespeare and the Japanese Kabuki theatre.

There is, however, a great gap between the two. The traditional Japanese theatrical art of the Kabuki is highly stylised whilst Shakespeare's works are more "naturalistic".

It would, indeed, be most interesting to see a Japanese Macbeth, not from film-maker Akira Kurasawa but a stage production.

On the fringe of the conference there was an art exhibition in which 45 artists, living in Berlin, took part.

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(Die Welt, Bonn, 7 April 1986)

Shakespeare German-style

The Shakespeare Society, founded in Weimar in 1864, is the oldest literary society in Germany. Goethe was not honoured in this way until 1886.

The aim of the Shakespeare Society is to make the poet's works more widely known, promote research into his life and work and further a knowledge and understanding of the English language.

Since 1865 a yearbook has been published and an annual academic conference organised.

There are now Shakespeare societies in 22 countries; one of the youngest is the Japanese society, founded in 1961.

The International Shakespeare Association has been operating from

Stratford-upon-Avon, where the poet was born, since 1975. It recently held its third international conference in West Berlin.

The German Society has split up since 1963. There is one society in Weimar, GDR, and another in Bochum in the Ruhr.

This harks back to a cycle of Shakespeare productions directed by Saladin Schmitz between 1927 and 1937 that raised the Bochum playhouse up to being one of the leading theatres in the country.

Werner Habicht is president of the West German Society, which has a membership of about 1,900.

Sir John Gielgud is president of the International Association.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 10 April 1986)

Small-town film festival meets demand

livel and regrets the closure considerably.

The town, population 22,000, has managed to support the film festival with an attendance of more

■ MEDICINE

Tübingen biofeedback techniques may help patients to reduce drug intake

Motorists waiting at a red light, sprinters in their starting blocks and musicians waiting for the conductor to raise his baton are all waiting for something specific to happen.

For these few seconds during which they await a signal, their powers of attention and concentration peak and the entire body is poised for action.

Tübingen University scientists led by Niels Birbaumer are using the biofeedback technique in a bid to exert deliberate influence on what goes on in the brain during this phase.

Biofeedback is based on the general experience that every learning process must be accompanied by the experience of success.

From this it is said to follow that we can influence unconscious processes, such as heartbeat, temperature and brain functions, provided we experience them.

This can be ensured by means of measuring equipment. So computers can be used to enable us to embark on a dialogue with our body functions.

There was a biofeedback boom in the mid-1970s when it was realised that unconscious processes could be influenced by individual will power if only they were made known to the individual.

Scientific proof of this point did little more than confirm what had long been suspected in connection with autogenic

Süddeutsche Zeitung

training and similar meditative and auto-suggestion techniques.

But the boom slumped when expectations of biofeedback proving a cure-all for all conceivable mental and physical ills were seen to be mistaken.

The technicals outlay is usually out of all proportion to the therapeutic gain.

The efficacy of biofeedback training is particularly doubtful in psychosomatic complaints.

Successes have been registered in neuro-muscular rehabilitation. People suffering from uncontrollable muscle tension as a result of injuries to certain parts of the brain have been able to influence them for the better by means of biofeedback.

A critical overview of therapeutic possibilities complete with case histories is given in *Biofeedbacktherapie*, written by B. Kröner and R. Sachse and published in Stuttgart in 1981.

The Tübingen research scientists are concentrating on the psycho-physiological possibilities of biofeedback.

Healthy volunteers are hooked up by electrodes to machinery that measures the various body processes.

They take readings ranging from eye

movements to changes in skin temperature. The human guinea pig is then told to steer a missile that appears on a monitor screen.

When a high-pitched noise is heard the missile must be steered toward the top of the screen and vice versa.

A direct hit counts one point and each point is worth DM1. Sounds are heard at irregular intervals. The volunteer has no idea that his missile's trajectory is guided solely by changes in tension in the brain.

None of the volunteers had the slightest idea that fluctuations in brain tension was the sole cause of missile movements.

None of them were able to explain how they moved the missile on the screen. Exerting mental influence seems to rule out putting it into words.

The change in the brain that determines the path of the missile takes the form of a slow shift in reaction potential.

Alternating current normally flows in the brain and can be measured by an electroencephalogram. But a direct current the potential of which changes in response to stimuli is superimposed on this alternating current.

A typical feature of a heightened attention situation such as the motorist waiting for the traffic lights to turn from red to green is a slow shift in potential toward the negative.

Volunteers were found to activate substantial sectors of the brain to regulate their powers of attention.

The Tübingen experiments also seem to confirm that increasing negativation of potential heightens the brain's readiness to process and relay information.

The brain briefs nerve cells next in line for activation to be on standby, as it were.

As soon as the situation awaited has occurred (the lights have switched to green, for instance) electric current in the brain reverts to normal tension.

An immediate consequence of bio-

feedback training the Tübingen psychologists report a general improvement in cognitive performance and perception potential.

The best learners are those who on auto-suggestion and thought while relaxing physically to the best of their ability. The more effectively the brain is shielded from external stimuli, the better it seems to function.

Birgitte Rostocker, a colleague of Birbaumer's, says these findings are least to prove of practical value in present in treating epileptics.

They could learn to control the electrical activity in the brain that precedes epileptic attacks and so reduce their frequency.

Before an attack action potential shifts in much the same way as it does heightened-attention situations.

To look at, the patient would seem extremely quiet, but his brain is already preparing for the extreme situation that lies ahead: the epileptic fit.

Senior students (by age if not by merit) take their place in meal queues as a matter of course and are unquestioningly accepted as bona fide members of the student body.

The Tübingen experimental finding might also help us to gain a clear idea of certain forms of schizophrenia. They could possibly be due to a disregulation of attention in the form of drastic changes in electric potential in the brain that patients cannot bring under control.

These changes seem to result in the brain no longer being able to distinguish between important and unimportant items of information and responding equally to all internal or external stimuli.

The withdrawal to an inner world that is typical of the course schizophrenia takes could arguably be a protective measure to ward off the inundation of external stimuli.

Studying the potential of the human brain is a fascinating subject, but control, even self-control, gives rise to alarming possibilities.

Birbaumer says there must be a frank and open debate to reduce the possibility of abuse to a minimum.

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■ EDUCATION

University degree courses for senior citizens are a great success

Some old-age pensioners complain of having nothing to do and feeling superfluous. Others don't. They have decided to try their hand at something new and enrolled at university for a degree course as "mature students" by any standards.

ontology and geriatrics (no less) are accepted as a regular feature of university life in the Ruhr city.

Kalisch has completed his degree course and now works as a student counsellor. Students young and old, say, attend lectures in sociology, psychology, education and gerontology as part of the social gerontology course.

The word (in case you wondered) means the study of health and education for the old.

An old people's association, the *Altentakademie* Dortmund, had the idea for the course in 1980, drafting plans in conjunction with the university and persuading the Bonn and Düsseldorf Education Ministries to sponsor the scheme.

The two-year course in social gerontology is not an end in itself for students aged 50-70. After a preliminary semester they qualify in two years for unpaid retirement work in old people's homes and for neighbourhood associations and welfare organisations.

Some have set up self-help groups for people who have suffered heart attacks or strokes. Others are busy setting up a group for people suffering from high blood pressure.

Students visit sick people who are old and lonely as an extra-curricular activity. They run church groups and go on holiday with old people.

They help the "meals on wheels" service and generally give old people a hearing when others can't be bothered to graduate.

For many it was an opportunity to make an idea they had been keen on since their youth come true.

Interest is so keen that a ban on new admissions has had to be imposed for the forthcoming semester.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Professor Ludger Veelken, who is in charge of the project, feels there is a serious possibility of it being granted department status and becoming a fully-fledged university discipline.

The two-year course in social gerontology is not an end in itself for students aged 50-70. After a preliminary semester they qualify in two years for unpaid retirement work in old people's homes and for neighbourhood associations and welfare organisations.

At other universities senior citizens keen to study must enrol as full-time students and take up places badly needed by a high birth-rate generation of young people keen to study too.

The desire for further education at university is definitely on the increase. Interested parties are increasingly joining forces, setting up pep groups like the *Altentakademie* in Dortmund and arranging for courses to be held at their local university.

Some encounter stiff resistance from universities worried their privileges might be in jeopardy and fearing that academic standards might suffer.

In Bielefeld, for instance, the *Seniorenakademie* has been granted official recognition but receives no financial backing and is not allowed to use university lecture theatres. Similar difficulties are reported in Trier.

But a growing number of universities are offering courses of study for old people. Last November delegates from 21 universities met in Dortmund for the first congress of an organisation set up to promote university facilities for elderly adults.

Student teachers derive benefit from daily contact with old people and the research issues to which they give rise.

"This," he says, "is an additional opportunity at a time when the demand for university places is heavy and an additional career prospect for young educationalists."

Professor Veelken's students and staff are monitoring early retirement among Post Office staff and the conversion of an old people's home into an open nursing home and care centre.

Research will soon be taking a closer look at the activities in which course graduates are later involved, the aim being to make the course feasible at and applicable to other universities than Dortmund.

Professor Veelken meets former students monthly and keeps an eye on how they get on.

Further training for senior citizens in social gerontology and geriatrics in Dortmund has served as a model for similar courses at other universities.

The joint educational planning and research promotion commission run by the Federal and Land governments is now looking into the senior citizens' course at Marburg University.

It has been run experimentally for three years and is to run on a regular basis from next semester with a DM500,000 grant from the Federal Education and Science Ministry.

Between 60 and 80 senior citizens aged 60-70 have enrolled for courses in philosophy, psychology, literature, theology, botany and social science at Marburg, which does not have a chair of gerontology.

But special lectures are given with a particular relevance to age-related is-

sues. The aim is to throw open all disciplines to senior students and link the generations in a combined course of study.

But senior students cannot take degrees as they can in Dortmund and don't qualify for post-retirement work.

The Federal Education and Science Ministry in Bonn hopes the Dortmund and Marburg projects will be emulated at other universities.

Further education is seen as an effective means of helping old people to maintain an active role in life.

But courses can only be offered if the demand exists at the university in question, Ministry officials say. Some universities lay on lectures and extra-curricular, non-degree courses as a special incentive to trigger interest on the part of old people.

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In Wuppertal the Institute of Social Medicine and Andragogy works in conjunction with the university, and various courses of senior studies are offered at colleges and universities in Hanover, Frankfurt, Trier, Frankfurt, Saarbrücken, Lüneburg, Darmstadt and Kassel.

Facilities are planned in Hamburg, Bremen, Oldenburg, Berlin, Hildesheim, Göttingen, Osnabrück, Brunswick and Freiburg.

Professor Veelken is confident the number of courses will continue to increase. Responsibility and coordination must be improved to ease the fears some universities have of greater freedom of access and the fears existing further education facilities have of their work being undermined.

Evening classes and night school must continue to provide wide-ranging facilities for the general public and pave the way for further training at university for those interested.

Jan Christoph Schwartz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 26 March 1986)

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Continued from page 12
of error. Each successive reading differs slightly from the last, but the range of possibilities is limited.

Dr Jacobshagen hopes his analyses will reveal the exact extent of the hereditary factor's effect on voice quality.

Identical twins are particularly well suited for investigations of this kind.

Detailed measurements have proved beyond doubt that monozygotic, or identical, twins do indeed have voices so similar as to be virtually indistinguishable.

Albert Bechtold

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 April 1986)

■ MODERN LIVING

Twentieth century youth culture in Stuttgart

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Youth Culture Since 1890 is the subject of an exhibition at the Würtembergischer Kunstsverein in Stuttgart.

About that time an independent youth movement developed as a challenge to the cultural environment dominated by the older generation.

"Shock and Creation - Youth Aesthetics in the 20th Century," staged in conjunction with the Deutscher Werkbund, tries to trace the manifestations of this extensive phenomenon.

The advance notice of the youth exhibition proclaimed that it would highlight "their way of life and thinking, their search for a meaning to life and the future, new ways of expressing themselves, their ambivalent yearning for conformity and upheaval, their attitudes in a consumer society and asceticism, their yearning for security and comfort."

To mark the beginning there is something that will appeal to the public, a confrontation between easy-going middle-class staleness with clumsy, heavy furniture including a status symbol for comfort, deliberately added to the clothes hanger.

Opposed to this is a crumby interior that makes use of the Janus Dior cult figure. This shows which way the cat is going to jump.

The comparisons are straightforward: young equals snappy, old equals humdrum. Youth being in fashion, the bias made clear from the outset.

The most important developments in youth culture since 1900 are outlined in texts, displayed on boards, in the gallery's domed hall.

The word "juvenile" was originally slighting. Then just before the turn of the century the word took on a criminal

Wrong man buried - who pays?

No one is prepared to foot the bill for the princely burial of a city beggar. An undertaker and a hospital have taken the case to a Bonn court.

Both admit they were to blame for mixing up the bodies of a poor and a rich man. A court ruling has already been made on this.

According to the firm of undertakers the trouble began when a nurse put the wrong tag on a corpse and did not supervise its removal from the hospital.

The hospital administration maintains that the corpse of the one-legged beggar could have been easily recognised as not that of the millionaire because of the one leg.

The hospital became aware of the mix-up a week later when preparing to bury the rich man. But he had already been buried officially.

The rich man's widow has demanded that her husband's body should be reburied for which the undertaking firm must foot the bill of DM5,000.

dpa
(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 25 March 1986)

implication, meaning young, anti-social people given to acts of violence. Generally speaking the word was used for working-class young people. Then after 1900, there began a youth movement that was totally unlike the way of life pursued by adults of the period. This distance from the older generation's way of life turned young people into outsiders and sect-followers.

There were the beginnings of the sun people. Shortly before the turn of the century, as members of the popular nudist clubs they threw off their wearing apparel with enthusiasm and with the purest intentions, instead of slipping on lightweight clothes.

Against these were the male quasi-military youth movements whose idealism came to rest in the trenches of two world wars.

There were also "wild cliques" of varying kinds; from the proletarian youth culture of the 1930s to the "Swing Boys" to the young hooligans of the Economic Miracle, the Teds, the Beatniks and the Punks.

The Swing Boys were provocatively Anglophilic at the beginning of the 1940s and paid for it either in prison or concentration camps (as did the painter K.H. Sonderborg, for instance.)

Other keywords in the youth movement are hippies and those involved in the student movement of the late 1960s, known in German as the Extra-Parliamentary Opposition (APO).

In the exhibition's other rooms the organisers try to show these developments, visually highlighting them by means of photographs and displays.

Cardboard and plaster figures stand between mattresses on the floor, piles of hay and a vegetarian idyll of herbs.

The exhibition displays what life was like in a commune, in alternative subcultures escaping from life and in ecstatic introversion.

Members of the Wandervogel youth movement stand beside members of the punk craze.

But this manner of animating youth culture is not entirely successful. The organisers have avoided a main theme, a lack that can be tolerated, however.

It is hard to understand why the arts of this movement are ignored. Artists took part in the youth protest movement as well. They formed a sub-culture that was immediately absorbed by accepted middle-class culture.

The young "Wild Ones," the Berlin Moritzboys around Salomé for example, who, a few years ago, enraged people by acting as "ratty animals," playing almost naked in a band, have become respectable that the tourist board now advertises their performances.

The artistic work of the youth movement has now found its way into middle-class living-rooms.

Thanks to china manufacturers Rosenthal the "Wild Ones" have been tampered, reduced in size to wall plates.

He admitted to a Munich court he had done this. He also yelled that she



Photo of a punk by Ulrike Rimmel

Photo: Catalogue

Only the plate's name indicates anything diabolical - Mephisto.

Graffiti artists did not fare any better. Their social protest designs, art for nothing for everyone, have found their way into the art market.

Young people who once were provocative have now become esteemed artists, moving freely in society.

But examples of this art, certainly a manifestation of the youth movement, penetrating sub-cultures and the fine arts alike, can be looked for in vain at the Stuttgart exhibition.

That will not harm the exhibition's popularity, however, and the Hitler Youth will be delighted to end up beside the punks in a museum.

The exhibition, which will eventually tour to Hamburg, Munich and Oberhausen, will be in Stuttgart until 18 May.

Dorothee Müller
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 April 1986)

Sleeping judge just thinking'

Closing the eyes for a second to fight off fatigue, which can happen to overworked judges, is no evidence that the judge is not paying attention.

The Berlin administrative court has rejected a lawyer's claim that his client's appeal to be considered as a conscientious objector was not given appropriate attention in a Mainz court because one of the judges had dozed off.

Hamann has bad memories of Frankfurt, where in 1981 he was the city youth pastor.

He said: "So long as youth work solely concerned with emancipation, are doing young people a wrong, it's taking them Christian self-confidence or knowing them the Christian of life."

His work is accepted and he is

Continued on page 15.

Unrequited farmer's forlorn wail

A Bavarian farmer, aged 53, disappointed that a 22-year-old girl on the next farm did not return his love, was put away in a mad house. The court found him guilty of threatening behaviour and gave him a suspended sentence of three months' imprisonment and a fine of DM6,000.

He admitted to a Munich court he had done this. He also yelled that she

Hot rod padre's latest ideas

Bernd-Jürgen Hamann was known as the motorcyclist past in Frankfurt until 1981. He now sits at a church in Charlottenburg, Berlin.

To appeal to young Christians he has developed a new form of worship with a "card index sermon," which includes questions from the parish and deals with them in a short sermon in the pulpit.

This series of sermons at the three Sunday services was so successful that he proposes to do the same twice a year in future.

The questions dealt with illness, old age and matters of belief. "I came mainly from the conservative side."

One questioner asked: "Should you not preach about doubt? Should a person still believe in miracles?"

Hamann regards questions such as these as a problem for many young people because of the generation gap.

For the questions he abridged the service and hymn-singing, so that he had 40 minutes for his parish.

As previously he preaches especially for the young. At Candlemas, the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, he started his service in the Charlottenburg parish church with a Christ country band, but without wearing cassock.

Young people read the lessons as prayers and, instead of the host, there was a Turkish flat loaf.

Yet he has no plans to establish an "alternative" parish.

When he was a member of a rock group his work took him to many who would otherwise hardly have been interested.

He wrote about this wild, but honest period in his life in his book *Im Frühen Fahrwind will ich dich loben*, published in 1980.

He was able then to baptise 20 rockers, and, since he has devoted himself to the "average motor cyclist."

His parish contract allows him to give up a quarter of his time to their spiritual welfare.

Hamann and Pastor Ruprecht Müller-Schleemann from Hesse are among the four motor cyclist pastors in Bielefeld.

After 40,000 hours of work, of which they are proud, they had renovated enough to enable the first two old ladies to move in by November 1981.

Frau Nolze saw the building for the first time while repairs were still taking place and spontaneously decided not to move in.

"But I came to like the young people and the large rooms, and I was able to bring all my furniture and even my parrot," she says.

Large rooms are an intrinsic part of the concept. The elderly are supposed to be able to arrange quickly and individually, a large living area with their own beloved and trusted furniture.

In principle the elderly and psychologically ill people are supposed to lead self-reliant and self-responsible lives as far as their existing capabilities and faculties permit rather than to be driven into an increasing dependence on nursing and care.

Continued from page 14

garded as being in the "pluralistic Church" on the fringe of the established Church.

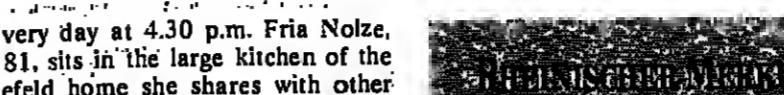
Hamann says of his "sheep" that many of their dropout attitudes are to do with aggression. The craving for speed is mixed up with depression and a death-wish.

Here he turns his attention to driving instructors. He says: "Young people are taught to understand traffic signs, and how to give hand signals, but no one tells them that when they have a five-hundredweight machine in their control they must act with maturity."

Diele Deul
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 April 1986)

■ SENIOR CITIZENS

Bielefeld experiment in communal living keeps the aged active and happy



Fria Nolze in the communal kitchen

they would have to show initiative and accept responsibility.

Social worker Petra Behrens has been living in the community since July 1983. She says the opening phase of the project was often frustrated by the attitude that the social workers were to tackle everything.

This attitude, she says, "is tied up with a kind of consumer-like posturing as regards the younger members, who should regulate and attend to everything."

"We wanted to avoid becoming a service operation through role-allocation. Both young and old should contribute to the functioning of the group."

The question of who was going to keep the adjacent streets clean is an example which illustrates what the situation was like.

The younger women were largely occupied with the task of nursing and did not have much time for sweeping the streets. The elderly women placed a lot of importance on well-kept streets. But it never dawned on them to sweep them themselves.

Finally one of them reached for a broom and it's now one of her regular chores.

In this way, often through everyday trivialities, a mutual process of learning comes about. The young learn not to be over protective of the elderly and to allow them to do much work themselves.

Fixed costs such as rent, rubbish disposal, housekeeping money and wages are covered by the monthly nursing allowances.

The aged make different contributions based on their respective nursing costs.

Along with that they administer their pensions themselves and transfer costs to the communal account.

Any surplus money is handled at their discretion. This insures a certain degree of freedom. This avoids, as is usually the case, reliance on pocket money handed out by a hospital administrator.

The wages of workers not belonging to the home are also paid out of the nursing allowance. They receive the association's usual rate of DM15 per hour.

The workers who live in receive no wages but do not have to pay for rent or food. For that they take care of the aged. This consists of 18 hours housework and two to three night-shifts.

Many other people of similar age complain of isolation, anonymity and loneliness. In contrast to this the communities aged experience a feeling of community.

Along with the assurance of care and extensive individual living space, this is probably the most decisive factor in this housing project for young and old.

Andrea Formschlag says: "The common effort to keep the project financially viable has created a feeling of solidarity, and the daily cooperation gives them access to their surroundings."

Petra Behrens adds: "Let the elderly participate again in living, in discussions about politics, morals, pubs and cinemas, then despite all handicaps and differences in age, they will come alive again and be able to live with one another."

Helmut Stolzenberg
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 12 April 1986)

that the hospital administrator gave the impression he would try and quash the court's judgement of incapacity.

In any case the court's behaviour did not in the slightest take into account the well-being, dignity, or health of Frau Rausch.

The decision of the authorities seems even more inexplicable when one considers that her niece and her husband are prepared to look after her in their home.

Frau Rausch even has sufficient income to avoid burdening the taxpayer.

Politicians who have intervened in the case have also had bad experiences with red tape.

Social Democratic Bonn Bundestag MP Günter Pauli had to wait four weeks for an answer to his inquiry whether the lawyer was the guardian of 160 or of 120 people.

Meanwhile the demands of the Land Justice Ministers for new legislation are being dealt with slowly by the Bonn government.

The law should among other things restrict the number of incapacitated people under the guardianship of one person.

They also want to put an end to using people's assets as a basis for reimbursement of guardianship costs for the administration of human life.

The law is expected in 1987/88 at the earliest and will then hardly be of much use to Frau Rausch.

One suspects that only President Richard von Weizsäcker can really achieve anything for her.

Hopefully something will happen before the Rausch affair becomes misused in a political discussion about the observance of human rights in West Germany.

Jürgen Diebäcker
(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 3 April 1986)